

Emergency Medical Services Training Programs

EMS Study Committee

EMS Training Programs

- Iowa adopted National standards in 2011 for EMS Levels
- Initial educational requirements:
 - Emergency Medical Responder
 - 48-60 clock hours*
 - Emergency Medical Technician
 - 150-190 clock hours
 - Advanced EMT (EMT-Intermediate)
 - EMT pre-requisite
 - 150-250 clock hours
 - Paramedic
 - EMT pre-requisite
 - 1,000-1,300 clock hours

*Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CoAEMSP), current guidelines

How long does it take?

- Part-time or full-time options
- 2 nights a week or every day
- EMR: 10 weeks part time
- EMT: 34 weeks part time or 1 month full time
- Advanced EMT: 40 weeks part time
- Paramedic:
 - AAS Degree (80 credits): 2 years part-time
 - Full Time: 10-12 months

Costs of Initial Education

- EMR: Approximately \$400
- EMT: Range of \$1,030-1,800 Advanced EMT: Approximately \$1,400 EMT pre-requisite
- Paramedic: Range of \$6,171 – \$12,000 – EMT pre-requisite

All projected expenses do not includes student or testing fees

Availability of Initial Education

- EMR, EMT and Advanced EMT courses can be offered in the providers home town
- 17 EMS Training Programs distributed fairly evenly throughout Iowa
 - 1 Private College
 - 2 Hospital Based
 - 14 Community-College Based
 - 11 sites for Paramedic education (CoAEMSP)
 - 6 sites for non-Paramedic education

EMS Training Programs

- Continuing Education Requirements
- 50% formal, classroom; 50% informal
 - EMR: 12 hours
 - EMT: 24 hours
 - Advanced EMT: 36 hours
 - Paramedic: 60 hours

Continuing Education Costs

- A wide variety of charges for formal continuing education...anywhere from free to about \$20.00 per hour, depending on basic vs. advanced student
- Approved, online education \$100 for unlimited continuing education hours for 2 yrs (as an example)

Availability of Continuing Education

- Most continuing education occurs in fire departments or ambulance services...provider's home town
- Some continuing education occurs on line
- Each Training Program offers formal hours

Enrolled

Finished

Graduation Rate

Enrollment in 2012

EMR • 163 141 86.5%

EMT • 1347 898 66.7%

AEMT • 81 58 71.6%

Para • 219 117 53.4%

Successful Students

- The national average for Paramedic cognitive exam on 1st attempt (3 allowed) is 68% (according to the National Registry of EMTs)
- UIHC EMSLRC average score is 84% (that's the only one I can cite)

EMS Enrollment: 10 Year Trends

- A wise EMS Leader once said, “EMS enrollment shows the health of the economy...as the economy improves, EMS enrollment goes down.”
- Paramedic Class Trends at UIHC: Lowest average of 14 per class in 2009; highest average/year of 22 in 2006, repeated in 2013
- Paramedic Class Trends at SCC: Lowest 6, highest 17 with an average of 12 per year

Room For Improvement

- Time, Costs, Commitment, Maintenance
- Push for the degree (associate degree)
- Resistance to the degree
- Return on investment
- Confusing continuing education requirements
- Healthcare provider requirements
- Paramedic in the mainstream healthcare system

Room For Improvement

- Lower wages for Paramedic vs other HCP
 - Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) says they can't recommend higher wages unless degree is asked for
 - Return on investment right now to get a degree vs pay is off balance
 - Degree achieved in most cases is the Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS)